Innovations in Wildlife Rehabilitation

Bird Banding, Research and More!

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Abstract

To improve upon our care for our wildlife patients it’s important to participate and/or conduct research. Knowledge gained from research is beneficial in understanding veterinary medical care, husbandry and nutrition as well as the potential for post-release survival. This presentation will review

- how to find out what studies are currently being done,
- how to reach out to other institutions/facilities/universities to participate in research
- what some recent studies have helped us to understand
- in-depth discussion regarding bird banding in wildlife rehabilitation.
Outline:

Who can do research?
Why do research/band birds?
What research has been/is being done?
How to get involved in research?
How to find bird banders?
The importance of making research results available - to make informed decisions on care!
Defining the research lingo

✘ **Retrospective:** retrospective study looks backwards and examines factors in relation to an outcome that is established at the start of the study.

✘ **Prospective:** A prospective study watches for outcomes, such as the development of a disease, during the study period and relates this to other factors such as suspected risk or protection factor(s).

✘ **Double-blind, randomized control trial:** A double-blind study is one in which neither the participants nor the experimenters know who is receiving a particular treatment. This procedure is utilized to prevent bias in research results.

✘ **“N”**

✘ **“N of 3 pfft”**

✘ **Case study:** a process or record of research in which detailed consideration is given to the development of a particular person, group, or situation over a period of time;

✘ **Anecdotal experience**
What is Research

Research is diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation to...

✘ Discover new knowledge
✘ Revise facts, theories, applications, etc.
✘ Answer a question
✘ Solve a problem
✘ To inform decisions

Hallmarks of a good study: “Large N”, evaluation of significance, control group
WHY is Research Important

The main purpose of research is to inform action, to prove a theory, and contribute to developing knowledge in a field or study.

1. A tool for building knowledge and for facilitating learning
2. Means to understand various issues and increase public awareness
3. An aid to business success
4. A way to prove lies and to support truths
5. Means to find, gauge, and seize opportunities
6. A seed to love reading, writing, analyzing, and sharing valuable information
7. Nourishment and exercise for the mind

https://owlcation.com/academia/Why-Research-is-Important-Within-and-Beyond-the-Academe
WHAT is Research?

WHY do Research?
What Research is being Done?

- Google scholar-->email the authors! Usually they are specialist in a topic and are doing more research in that area
  - RS: CST 3D CT scan pic here
- Talk, network, reach out, etc
  - UGA babesia
  - “I got a guy…”

https://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Research

https://theiwrc.org/resources/research
Rehabbers doing research

anyone can do research and/or contribute to ongoing research...you don’t have to have a PhD! Rehabilitators are in a unique position, having wild animals in human care; non-invasive information can be gathered that will further our understanding - from veterinary medicine to husbandry


what some recent studies have helped us to understand

2015 Perceptions of Wildlife Rehabilitation - Survey

Post-Release Survival of commonly hand-reared Songbirds – ongoing
Banding of birds in the United States is controlled under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and requires a federal banding permit through the USGS Bird Banding Lab.

- Some states require a state permit as well
- Only official federal bands may be legally placed on birds that are released to the wild within NA
- Approximately 2000 Master Banders in NA; 3000 Sub-Permittees
- Must apply, have experience, and well defined research
Find a bird bander near you!

Wildlife agency
Universities
Birding clubs
Email BBL
How to participate in research

- reach out to other institutions/facilities/universities/zoo

- Be professional
  - They need to trust you and your data
  - You need to prove yourself as a professional
  - Offer samples
  - Be easy to work with
  - Be up front about your limitations